

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
ROOM 208
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT**

AMENDED

Members Present: Councilman Todd Berch, Chair
Councilman Gerald Daley

Student Rep: Matt Gomes

Absent: Councilwoman Linda Salafia

Staff Present: William Russo, Public Works Director

Other Attendees: Earle Roberts, Bow Lane
Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer Departments

Chair Berch opened the Public Works Commission Meeting at 7:02. He requested a motion to accept minutes of meeting dated February 13, 2013 with a change to add Matt Gomes, Student, to the list of Public Works Commission members. Commissioner Daley moved to accept minutes with change. Motion seconded and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Earle Roberts, Bow Lane addressed the Commission regarding a letter he received from Director Russo in November saying the Commission had approved putting a closed gate on a public portion of land on Reservoir Road by Cedar Lane. He stated that he has owned property there for some time. He stated he makes a living from this property and feels it is violating his rights to use of this property. The letter stated that a key was available for his use. He feels there is a liability issue with the use of the key and will not accept this key until he checks with his lawyer. Commissioner Daley asked Director Russo if this was a public road. Director Russo stated that this was unclear as it had been maintained by the City at one time. He would have to direct the question to Engineering and City Attorney's office. Mr. Roberts wanted to know if a Public Works employee would come out to open the gate when he needed access to his property. Director Russo advised he would have to check with the City Attorney. Mr. Roberts also asked under what policy this decision occurred as this is not the only reservoir with dumping issues.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

NEW BUSINESS

Item 5a. Approval of Connecticut Tree Protective Association dues for Assistant Tree Warden, Rick Romano – Commissioner Daley moved to approve annual dues of \$45.00. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Berch and approved.

Item 5b. Approval of funding for Road Safety Classes for Engineering Construction Inspector, Bob DeManche – Director Russo advised that these classes are necessary in order for him to stay current in his job. Commissioner Berch moved to approve fee of \$350.00 for classes, seconded by Commissioner Daley and approved.

Item 5c. Approval of Funding for Textile Recycling Workshop, Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator – Director Russo asked for approval of fee of \$100.00 to cover cost of workshop necessary to maintain current policies affecting job. Commissioner Daley moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Berch and approved.

Item 5d. FEMA Update – Director Russo advised that the money amount they are expected to submit for FEMA approval is \$850,000.00. If approved, we would receive about seventy-five percent of that amount. He stated he will update the Finance and Government Commission at their meeting.

Director Russo advised that Public Works will need an appropriation of \$400,000.00 to reimburse the accounts that were depleted during the storm. After some discussion, Councilman Daley moved to forward appropriation to Common Council. Motion was seconded by Councilman Berch and approved.

OLD BUSINESS - None

OTHER

Guy Russo, Director of Water/Sewer Department, addressed the Commission. He said he was working on a LoCip resolution for additional docks for Public Safety. He said his department was able to purchase a boat through a DEEP website for \$50.00 for Public Safety but doesn't have access to the existing dock as there is no room left for mooring. He said he did have a contractor for expanding the current dock but had a dispute over compensation that was recently worked out through the City Attorney and the department was able to obtain some of the materials needed but requires additional funds to complete the dock. Commissioner Daley moved for approval of additional funds of \$60,000.00 for this project and it was seconded by Commission Berch and approved.

Director Russo reviewed the upcoming budget with the Commissioners. He pointed out that the only area they need an increase is in the Sanitation Depreciation Fund to upgrade the Main Street garbage and recycling containers to. In order to meet the Mayor's budget reduction request, some line items were combined or reduced.

Director Russo advised that he and Commissioner Berch met with the Highway employees to discuss how improvement could be made during snow storms. Although some ideas were discussed, they concluded that more snow blowers and pay loaders would significantly help but the cost is prohibitive at this time. He is looking into contracting this equipment and personnel out as some towns do as an option.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Prepared by:

William Russo
Director of Public Works